

To: "Allen, Kara" [Kara.Allen@mail.house.gov]
From: "Allen, Kara" <Kara.Allen@mail.house.gov>
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[Gov. Jay Inslee wants to beat climate change and create new energy jobs. \(Los Angeles Times\)](#)

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[BPA replacement may have similar health effects \(E&E*\)](#)

[Just Four Athletic Facilities Are LEED-Platinum, Iowa University Is One \(Sustainable Business\)](#)

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Sustainable Energy & Environment Coalition
 January 18, 2013

<http://seec-israel.house.gov/>

Top news stories:

Gov. Jay Inslee wants to beat climate change and create new energy jobs. (Los Angeles Times)

I traveled to Olympia to see former SEEC co-chair Jay Inslee sworn in. After all, how often does a friend become a governor? And what other governor at his swearing-in would have chosen to be introduced by Dennis Hayes, the founder of Earth Day?

Hydraulic fracturing: House Democrats push EPA to move faster on Pavillion (E&E*)

SEEC member Rep. Jan Schakowsky and 19 co-signers sent a letter today to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, urging her to speed up the agency's probe of water contamination from oil fields around Pavillion, Wyo.

Will Obama punt again on climate change? (POLITICO)

Lofty words alone won't heal the Earth, but climate activists are still looking to President Barack Obama's inaugural speech on Monday for any sign that their cause has a place in an increasingly cluttered second-term agenda.

Pershing to leave State Department for DOE (E&E*)

Deputy Special Envoy for Climate Change Jonathan Pershing, who helped lead the United States at the U.N. global warming talks for the past four years, will step down.

Why We Now Oppose Drilling in the Arctic by Carol Browner and John Podesta (Bloomberg)

The Arctic Ocean is subject to some of the most volatile weather patterns on the planet. Geologists believe it also contains vast undersea oil and gas reserves. Last year, the Arctic's ice cover shrank to the lowest levels in recorded history and, not coincidentally, Royal Dutch Shell Plc received the first permits in decades to begin prospecting for oil and gas in federal waters north of Alaska's wilderness.

Energy news:

Senators: Dodd-Frank lawsuit 'fundamentally' threatens Congress's power (The Hill)

A trio of senators say that business groups challenging new Securities and Exchange Commission rules are taking dead aim at the power of Congress to make policy on energy and national security.

Bruised House GOP looks to energy issues for a pick-me-up (E&E*)

In the wake of a bruising year-end fight over taxes and government spending, House Republicans gathered last night at a posh resort to regroup and plan for the future.

Iowa Wind entrepreneur to have featured role in Monday's ceremonies (E&E*)

The Presidential Inaugural Committee today announced eight "citizen co-chairs" of next week's 57th inaugural ceremonies — including the owner of an Iowa wind energy company.

ExxonMobil will give \$250K to inauguration (The Hill)

ExxonMobil plans to contribute \$250,000 to President Obama's inauguration.

Coal to Asia Emerges as New Front in Battle against Global Warming (Scientific American)

At least three of the Powder River Basin's largest coal companies -- Peabody Energy Corp., Ambre Energy and Arch Coal Inc. -- have stakes in one or more of the five terminals. Should all the projects come to completion, their combined shipping capacity of 150 million tons per year could more than double current U.S. coal export levels.

Backers Urge Administration to Sign Off on Gas Exports (CQ*)

Backers of sending liquefied natural gas overseas are calling on the Obama administration to quickly sign off on pending export proposals, after the release of an Energy Department-commissioned report that painted a favorable economic portrait of the projects.

U.S. efficiency spending projected to double, offset most demand increases (E&E*)

Energy efficiency spending on utility customers could rise to \$9.5 billion by 2025, offsetting most of the expected energy demand growth in the United States over the coming decade, according to a report released yesterday.

U.S. Missing the Boat on Clean Tech, Pew Study Finds (Greentech Media)

At first it looks like a rosy picture. From 2012 to 2018, the world's clean energy sector could total nearly \$2 trillion in revenue. But much of that is not in the U.S., for a variety of reasons, and the U.S. is barely keeping up, according to a new report from The Pew Charitable Trusts, Innovate, Manufacture, Compete: A Clean Energy Action Plan.

Sungevity Raises Another \$125 Million For Solar Leases (Sustainable Business)

Sungevity, one of the leaders in solar leasing, has raised another \$125 million in expansion capital. Brightpath Capital Partners,

and home improvement retailer, Lowe's led a \$40 million venture capital round and private equity firm Energy Capital Partners and a "leading commercial bank" committed to \$85 million in project financing.

Solar Could Meet All The World's Electricity Needs In 2050 Using Under One Percent Of World's Land (ThinkProgress)

A new report released by the WWF concludes that the solar arrays necessary to meet all the world's projected energy needs in 2050 would cover under one percent of global land area.

California teams up with Amtrak on high-speed rail (Grist)

Today, Amtrak announced it is teaming up with the California High-Speed Rail Authority to find trains that would run at up to 220 mph along both the West Coast and East Coast corridors.

Climate news:

Obama's Climate Challenge (Rolling Stone)

Among all the tests President Obama faced in his first term, his biggest failure was climate change. After promising in 2008 that his presidency would be "the moment when the rise of the oceans began to slow and our planet began to heal," President Obama went silent on the most crucial issue of our time.

Why the climate bill failed: It's not that simple (Grist)

Ever since federal climate legislation crashed and burned in 2010, people have been analyzing what went wrong — and that's all to the good. There's plenty to be learned from this sad story, and I've been one of many people engaged in the effort.

On the Non-equivalence of Greenhouse Gases and Entitlement Spending (New York Times)

One fairly common trope in budget discussions — I'm pretty sure I've done it myself, somewhere along the line — is to compare attitudes toward fiscal issues and those toward environmental issues.

Petroleum Coke: The Coal Hiding in the Tar Sands (Price of Oil)

Existing analyses of the impacts of tar sands fail to account for a byproduct of the process that is a major source of climate change causing carbon emissions: petroleum coke — known as petcoke. Petcoke is the coal hiding in North America's tar sands oil boom.

Sandy spurs Rockefeller plan to fight flooding (Washington Post)

The threat to low-lying cities has spiked in an era when massive weather disruptions fueled by global warming result in the sort of unprecedented flooding that for days shut down much of New York's subway system, halted the stock market and paralyzed the heart of the nation's premier financial district.

States: Minn. legislators get a crash course in climate (E&E*)

Earlier this week, researchers gave Minnesota legislators the start of a dissertation on the climate change problems facing their state. The hearing was designed to provide lawmakers with the big perspective "at a graduate level" on the connections between climate change and the way Minnesotans use their natural resources through agriculture, water demand and forestry, said Rep. Jean Wagenius, chairwoman of the House Environment Committee.

Monster Storm Lashing Outer Reaches of Alaska (Climate Central)

An extraordinarily powerful ocean storm, packing hurricane-force winds and waves towering up to 62 feet, has been spinning its way toward Alaska's Aleutian Islands after undergoing a phenomenally rapid intensification process in the Western North Pacific Ocean since Sunday. This satellite image, which captured the storm near its peak intensity on Tuesday, offers a rare glimpse at a storm system of this magnitude.

Environment & Health news:

Groups battle on Keystone XL pipeline (The Hill)

Detractors and backers of the Keystone XL oil sands pipeline released separate reports Thursday designed to cement public support for their respective sides.

Study Links Oil And Gas Extraction To Ozone Chemicals (ThinkProgress)

Oil and gas development in an area of Colorado that is in the midst of a huge drilling boom is contributing more than half of the chemical pollution that contributes to the formation of ozone, a new study by University of Colorado scientists has found.

What's Next for the Energy, Environment, and Applied Technology Sectors in 2013? (AOL Energy)

Despite the uncertainties of where the market is headed, we expect to see an uptick in investments and deals across the natural gas, energy efficiency, and smart grid sectors over the next year. In 2013, we predict that the energy efficiency will be active with the continued growth of IT, but the natural gas sector will be the center of major investor attention.

US Department of Energy Shifts Focus to Rare Earths (Rare Earth Investing News)

The US Department of Energy (DOE) will allocate up to \$120 million for the creation of a rare earths research facility aimed at decreasing the country's dependence on rare earth elements (REEs) from China.

BPA replacement may have similar health effects (E&E*)

A chemical being used by some companies as a safer alternative to the controversial plastics hardener bisphenol A (BPA) has shown the same estrogen-disrupting effects in lab tests, researchers said.

Just Four Athletic Facilities Are LEED-Platinum, Iowa University Is One (Sustainable Business)

Iowa State University is collecting LEED certifications, the latest of which is its athletic complex, which is now LEED-Platinum. Five buildings on campus are certified - two Platinum, two Gold and one Silver. Its College of Design was the first building certified in Iowa in 2009.

Diablo Canyon quake safety key issue (Fuel Fix)

America's top nuclear regulator said Wednesday that if anyone wants to study in depth the offshore earthquake faults near PG&E's Diablo Canyon Power Plant, there is no substitute for the environmentally destructive tests blocked by California officials in November.

Middle East Pilots Desalination Powered by Renewable Energy (Sustainable Business)

A desalination plant that runs on renewable energy is being piloted in Abu Dhabi, with the goal of commercialization by 2020. Potable water is increasingly a pressing issue for the Middle East and desalinating sea water is a costly and energy intensive process.

* indicates subscription required

These news clips are intended to be informative and are provided as a courtesy to member offices of the Sustainable Energy & Environment Coalition (SEEC), and others. SEEC is a coalition of forty-four Democratic members of the U.S. House of Representatives that was founded in January 2009 to be a focused, active, and effective coalition for advancing "policies that promote clean energy technology innovation and domestic manufacturing, develop renewable energy resources, and create green collar jobs throughout the product supply-chain, and policies to help arrest global warming and protect our nation's clean air, water and natural environment." SEEC is Co-Chaired by Reps. Steve Israel (D-NY), Paul Tonko (D-NY), and Gerald Connolly (D-Va.). SEEC vice chairs are Reps. Rush Holt (D-NJ), Chellie Pingree (D-ME), Jared Polis (D-CO), and Doris Matsui (D-CA.)

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